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Boston University

News & Notes

Boston University School of Medicine



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SANDSON TESTIFIES ON STATE ANIMAL RESEARCH LEGISLATION

Dean Sandson, testifying on behalf of the Massachusetts medical schools, told the State Legislature's Joint Committee on Counties that the recent state ruling prohibiting local pounds from selling animals to research institutions for medical testing after Dec. 17 was "as much of a limitation on animal research as we can or will accept."

At the Committee's Feb. 28 session, Sandson stressed that "the research community supported the repeal legislation (allowing pounds to sell animals for research) in recognition of the concerns about pound animals, but further limitation of the use of animals in research will seriously impede vital and necessary work essential to continued progress in the battle against injury and disease."

Sandson said the new law will place financial strains on the research community since it will cost much more to buy the greatly limited supply of animals. "But it is hoped that in the long term the construction of an in-state breeding facility will alleviate this burden to some degree," he added.

Several other bills aimed at terminating all animal research are before the Committee. If passed, Sandson told the Committee, they would "halt promising research in virtually every field of medicine."

MEMORIAL SERVICE SET FOR FORMER ASSOCIATE DEAN LEAH LOWENSTEIN

A memorial service for Leah Lowenstein, M.D., D. Phil, former associate dean and a professor of medicine and biochemistry at BUSM, will be held April 29 at 2 p.m. at Marsh Chapel on the University's Charles River campus. A renowned spokesperson for women in medicine, Lowenstein two years ago became the first woman dean of a coeducational medical school in the nation and was a specialist in kidney disease research. She died of cancer March 6 at age 53.

One of only three women in her medical class at the University of Wisconsin in 1954, Lowenstein became a recognized voice for women throughout her 15 years as a faculty member at BUSM and later, as dean and vice president of Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, a post to which she was named in 1982.

"She was one of the outstanding leaders in the medical field in the last 10 years," said Dean Sandson. "Dr. Lowenstein made major contributions in science, teaching, administration and clinical care, and did a great deal to advance the role of women in medicine."

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Lowenstein was active in numerous professional organizations and activities, including the prestigious Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science. She also served as president of the New England Chapter of the American Medical Women's Association from 1973 to 1979. Just prior to assuming the position of dean at Jefferson, Lowenstein was director of basic and clinical sciences of Boston University's Gerontology Center and was director of the Unit of Metabolic Nephrology at BUSM. She wrote many publications and also was an accomplished cellist.

She is survived by her husband John, a biochemistry professor at Brandeis University; and sons Charles, a second-year medical student at Harvard University, Andrew, a senior at Yale, and Marc Lowenstein, a junior at Harvard, all of Wellesley. She was the daughter of Sarah and the late Abraham Hiller of Milwaukee. She also leaves her sisters, Benette Laiken of Milwaukee, Judith Goldberg of Denver, Colo., and Ruth Hiller of Cambridge.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Leah Lowenstein Memorial Fund, Boston University School of Medicine, 80 E. Concord St., Boston, MA 02118.

STUDY LINKS VASCULAR FACTORS,
RADIATION-ASSOCIATED IMPOTENCE

In the Feb 17 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, BUSM researchers reported that they have identified abnormal vascular factors as the major physical abnormality in men with radiation-associated impotence, a common side effect of radiation treatment for prostate cancer. The researchers called for further studies to examine whether the incidence of RAI can be altered by adjusting radiation dosages or by limiting the area irradiated.

Of 23 study subjects with prostate cancer who received external beam pelvic irradiation, 15 met the criteria for potency, four could achieve partial erections and four were totally impotent. Following radiation therapy, 15 of the 19 patients who had been potent or capable of partial erections experienced a change in capacity to partial erection or total impotence. The researchers found that while neurologic testing and endocrine screens failed to reveal any consistent abnormalities, vascular testing was abnormal in all of the subjects.

Researchers involved in the study were: Irwin Goldstein, M.D., an assistant professor of urology; Merrill I. Feldman, M.D., a professor of radiology; Peter J. Deckers, M.D., an associate professor of surgery; Richard K. Babayan, M.D., an assistant professor of urology; and Robert J. Krane, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Urology.

HEALTH COUNCIL APPROVES
UH REPLACEMENT BUILDING

University Hospital has received approval from the state Public Health Council of its Determination of Need application for a partial replacement structure. To be known as the Q Building, the facility will be built on Parking Lot A. When completed, the building will house surgical inpatient units and a 16-bed surgical intensive care unit.

Hospital personnel, who have been planning the facility for more than three years, received the long-awaited notification at a hearing in February where School of Medicine officials, community representatives, referring physicians and former patients spoke in support of the facility.

JOHNSON FOUNDATION AWARDS
HOME MEDICAL SERVICE GRANT

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation of Princeton, N.J., through its Hospital Initiatives in Long-Term Care Program, has presented a \$141,715 grant to University Hospital for a comprehensive, long-term health-care program, designed to provide many of Boston's ailing elderly with an effective alternative to hospitalization or nursing home care.

The program will to be administered through the century-old Home Medical Service, now run by UH in cooperation with BUSM. It will provide 300 Boston elderly--identified as being at highest risk for institutionalization--with centralized access to home medical care, short-term hospital care, a unique respite care program, nursing care and social services. After successful completion of the grant's first year, UH will be eligible for up to \$500,000 in additional funding. R. Knight Steel, M.D., a BUSM professor of medicine and chief of UH's Geriatric Medicine Section, is the program coordinator.

STATE AWARDS GRANT TO
FETAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM

In January, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts awarded a 30-month grant to BUSM's Fetal Alcohol Education Program. The program was established in 1979 to reduce the incidence of fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects by training a broad spectrum of health-care providers to identify and treat pregnant women at risk. Lyn Weiner, M.P.H., an assistant professor of psychiatry (public health), is the program director for the grant and Henry L. Rosett, M.D., a clinical professor of psychiatry, serves as the medical director. The program has been relocated to larger headquarters at 7 Kent Street in Brookline. The new telephone number is 739-1424.

TUNNEL LINK FROM BUSM
TO BCH AVAILABLE FOR USE

The tunnel connecting the new K Building to the BCH tunnel system is officially open and available to BUSM personnel, according to Herbert D. Klein, BUSM plant superintendent. Access to the tunnel is available from the L and R Building third-floor link, through the bridge over East Concord Street and to the K Building first floor elevator lobby. The entrance to the tunnel is two left turns from the lobby. Tunnel doors will be open between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily. Instructions for weekend and night tunnel use can be obtained by calling Klein's office at x5459.

SEVERAL CME COURSES
SLATED FOR APRIL AND MAY

"Sexual Attitude Reassessment," sponsored by the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, will be held at BUSM's Hiebert Lounge on April 7 and 8. Stanley H. Ducharme, Ph.D., an associate professor of rehabilitation medicine (psychology), and Murray M. Freed, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, will be featured.

"Current Clinical Pediatrics" will be sponsored by the Department of Pediatrics at the Sea Pines Plantation, Hilton Head Island, S.C., April 9 to 13. Course director is Stephen I. Pelton, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics and associate director of the Department of Pediatrics.

"Controversies in Internal Medicine" will be presented May 6 to 9 at the Sea Pines Plantation. The course, sponsored by the Division of Medicine, will be directed by Robert M. Levin, M.D., an associate professor of medicine.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Marcelle M. Willock, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology, has been elected president of the Massachusetts Anesthesia Council on Education, the educational arm of the Massachusetts Society of Anesthesia.... Charles Fiske, associate director for management of BUSM's Social Rehabilitation Services at the Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center, represented BUSM at a ceremony in which Governor Michael S. Dukakis signed a proclamation declaring March as Organ Donor Awareness Month....James R. Sorenson, Ph.D., an associate professor of socio-medical sciences and community medicine and chief of the School's Social and Behavioral Science Section, recently presented a paper entitled "Genetic Counseling and the Prevention of Birth Defects" at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, held in Dallas. The paper was co-authored by Dorothy C. Wertz, Ph.D., an adjunct associate professor in the Section....Judith Marquis, Ph.D., an associate professor of pharmacology, presented a paper at the "Third Meeting of the International Study Group on the Pharmacology of Memory Disorders Associated with Aging," held in Zurich, Switzerland, in January. While in Switzerland, Marquis also was invited to present seminars to the faculty of the Institute of Chemistry in Berne and the Department of Pharmacology of the Medical School in Geneva.

NEWS & NOTES is a monthly publication of the Office of Informational Services. If you have news of interest to the BUSM community, call editor Paul Vaskas, x5606 (247-5606), or write to him at the Office of Informational Services, DOB-600 (720 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118). Marge Dwyer is managing editor.

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